

The Supreme Court is also monitoring the implementation of the Report of FNJPC in W.P. No. 1022/1989-All India Judges Association Vs. UOI. The matter came up for hearing before the Supreme Court on 8.2.2001 and it has been adjourned to 27.3.2001.

Legislation to curb money and muscle power in elections

453. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to bring forward legislation to curb money and muscle power in elections;

(b) whether it is proposed to debar criminals from contesting elections to Parliament and State Legislatures; and

(c) when a Final decision is likely to be taken and a law in this regard enforced?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) In view of the growing incidence/allegations of use of money and muscle power in elections and entry of criminal elements into electoral politics, recommendations have been made from time by different bodies and individuals like the Committee on Electoral Reforms (Dinesh Goswami Committee), the Committee on State Funding of Elections (Indrajit Gupta Committee), the Law Commission of India (170th Report on Reform of Electoral Laws), the Election Commission of India, *etc.* for curbing these tendencies. The reform of electoral laws is, however, a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties, which is a time consuming process and, therefore, no time frame can be suggested in this regard. Government, however, intends to continue interaction with the political parties in this regard.

Fast track system for disposal of court cases

454. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has suggested evolving a "fast track system" to reduce the backlog of cases and providing cheap and speedy justice;

(b) if so, whether in view of mounting of arrears of over two crore cases over 24 lakh cases pending in the High Courts, it is necessary that "fast track system" in judiciary should be adopted:

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(c) if so, the steps his Ministry has suggested in implementing the proposal of "fast track system"; and

(d) by when it is likely to be formulated and introduced?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Central Government have decided to set up 1734 additional courts in the country in the Subordinate Judiciary, based on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission. These Courts are expected to serve as fast track courts, and dispose of the priority long pending sessions cases, and other criminal cases involving undertrials.

(b) There are about two crore cases pending in the Subordinate Courts where the Scheme of "fast track courts" is being implemented. However, no such general proposal is under consideration of the Government to introduce fast track system of courts in various other courts of the country including High Courts.

(c) and (d) The Scheme includes construction of new court rooms, appointment of *ad hoc* judges and other supporting staff, arrangements for public prosecutors in these courts, arrangements for quick process service etc. These courts are expected to start working with effect from 1.4.2001 and will continue till 31.3.2005. Central Government have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 502.90 crore for this scheme. Out of this, an allocation of Rs. 202.27 crore has been made for the current year, 2000-2001

Judicial reforms

455. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed that judicial system has failed to deliver speedy justice;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is considering to formulate judicial reforms immediately;

(c) whether any concrete proposals in this regard are being worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?